

CLAIMS:

1. A method for dewatering water-containing coal, comprising heating the water-containing coal at a temperature of 100°C to 350°C under a pressure not less than a saturated steam pressure at the temperature for the heating, while
5 applying a shearing force of 0.01 MPa to 20 MPa to the water-containing coal, in a sealed vessel.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shearing force is applied
10 by a stirring blade provided in the sealed vessel.
3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the temperature for the heating is 150°C to 300°C.
- 15 4. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the pressure during the heating is not more than the saturated steam pressure at the temperature for the heating + 0.5 MPa, provided that the pressure does not exceed 17.8 MPa.
- 20 5. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the shearing force is 0.1 MPa to 10 MPa.
6. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the heating is conducted in a period of from three minutes to five hours.
- 25 7. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the water-containing coal is brown coal containing 25 weight% to 85 weight% of water, calculated on the basis of the water-containing coal.
- 30 8. A method comprising providing a mixture containing water which is

removed from water-containing coal and coal from which the water is removed in a sealed vessel as obtained according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, and subsequently removing water from the mixture existing in the sealed vessel or adding water to the mixture, to adjust a water content in the mixture to 30 weight% to 50 weight%, calculated on the basis of the mixture.

9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the water content in the mixture obtained by removing water or adding water is 40 weight% to 50 weight%.

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10. A method comprising providing a mixture containing water which is removed from water-containing coal and coal from which the water is removed in a sealed vessel as obtained according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, subsequently removing the water from the mixture to isolate the coal from which the water was removed.

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11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein water is removed from the mixture so that the coal contains not more than 15 weight% of water, based a total amount of the coal and water.

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12. The method according to Claim 10, wherein water is removed from the mixture so that the coal substantially does not contain water.

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13. A method comprising adding 1 weight% to 25 weight% of bitumen, calculated on the basis of dry coal, to the dewatered coal obtained by the method according to any one of Claims 10 to 12.

14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein an amount of the bitumen is 5 weight% to 20 weight%, based on the dry coal.

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15. The method according to Claim 13 or 14, wherein the bitumen is natural asphalt, petroleum asphalt or coal tar.